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CEP 800
Lesson Plan

Course: (IGCSE) Global Perspectives
Unit: Conflict and Peace
Lesson Topic: War in Syria

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will identify Syria and the surrounding countries on a map.
2. Students will understand what events and motives have led to the current civil war.
3. Students will analyze maps and information to evaluate the interests of all parties (Syrian government, Rebels, surrounding countries, etc.).
4. Students will evaluate reasons and motives for war.
5. Students will hypothesize courses of action that might lead to peace.

Lesson Resources:

Timeline:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14703995>

Maps:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19285076>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/foreign-affairs-defense/battle-for-syria/interactive-map-the-battle-for-syria/>

<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2013/05/world/map-syria-neighbors/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2013/may/23/syria-violence-attacks-mapped-database-gdelt>

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/03/13/world/middleeast/a-snapshot-of-the-dispute-in-syria.html?_r=1&

Google Earth software

Lesson Activities:

1. Ask a student to point out Syria on the big paper map on the wall.
2. Ask questions to see what students know about the situation in Syria.
3. Using the computer and video display, review the timeline (assigned to read as homework the night before) for key events in Syria's history and especially since the Arab Spring in 2011. Discuss the reasons and motives for war.
4. Use Google Earth to show Syria in the context of the world and the region. Start zoomed way out, then zoom closer and closer. Ask students about the region, including neighboring countries, geographical features, etc.

5. Look at the BBC and NY Times maps which give an overview of the conflict zones and the movement of people. Ask questions of students to check for comprehension. The NY Times map shows refugee camps. Reference the article assigned as homework on refugees in Turkey. See what students know/remember about the article. We have discussed refugee camps previously talking about the 1994 Rwanda genocide, so students should remember this term, but we can briefly review it.
6. Look at the Guardian interactive map showing violent events per quarter since Spring 2011 in different areas and make conclusions based on this. Let the students dictate what is clicked on and looked at, and let them make judgements about it.
7. Look at the PBS interactive map which has details about various places. Let the students choose which ones to click on and read the information aloud in class. Help them discover differences among cities/regions and the various rebel groups throughout Syria. This will inform our discussion on the interested parties later.
8. Lastly, look at the CNN interactive map showing Syria's neighbors. Click on each country and have students read the different perspectives.
9. Revisit the discussion on the reasons and motives for war, involving other countries as well. Ask students to consider the possibilities for the region based on consequences of events in Syria.
10. Talk about the involvement of countries outside of the region, including Russia and the US, and others who are purposely staying out of it, like China. Discuss their interests.
11. Discuss possible courses of action that could lead to peace in the country and in the region. Guide students through the possible onsequences of different sides "winning" the war. Talk about obstacles to lasting peace in the Middle East.